

THAT WHICH IS CLAIMED:

1. A method, comprising:

receiving location information from a customer obtaining a consumer electronics host device, wherein the consumer electronics host device is capable of receiving a digital cable service over a cable network;

selecting a provider of digital cable services serving a geographical area including a location corresponding to the location information;

providing to a provisioning input system the location information from the customer, and a service provider identifier associated with the provider of cable digital services; and

providing the consumer electronics host device to the customer.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining an identifier of a type of conditional access module based in part on the selected provider of the digital cable service; and

providing to the provisioning input system the identifier of the conditional access module.

3. The method of claim 2 further comprising:

operatively connecting the conditional access module with the consumer electronics host device, wherein the conditional access module is of the type of conditional access module identified.

4. The method of claim 2 further comprising:  
scanning an optical bar code to determine the identifier associated with the conditional access module.
5. The method of claim 1 comprising:  
enabling a conditional access scheme for use with the consumer electronics device.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein the provisioning input system incorporates a point-of-sale terminal.
7. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
displaying on a computer monitor feature information pertaining to the consumer electronics host device.
8. The method of claim 7 wherein the computer monitor further displays service information associated with the digital cable service offered by the provider of digital cable service.
9. The method of claim 7 wherein the feature information displayed is provided by a kiosk terminal located in a retail store.
10. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving service selection information from the customer regarding at least one or more services offered by the provider of digital cable services; and

providing the service selection information to the provisioning input system.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the service selection information pertains to one from the group of personal video recording, basic cable programming service, premium cable programming service, telephony service, musical audio service, and high speed Internet access service.

12. The method of claim 10 wherein the service selection information pertains to an enhanced service provided on the cable network.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein the consumer electronic host device is integrated with a digital television.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the consumer electronic host device provides video signals to a television.

15. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

receiving service selection information from the customer regarding a service offered by the provider of digital cable services;

determining a feature related capability of the consumer electronics host device; and

determining whether the service selection information is compatible with the feature related capability of the consumer electronics host device.

16. The method of claim 1 wherein the provider of the digital cable service also provides at least one service from the group of musical audio service, telephone service, and high speed data service.

17. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
providing the customer with a printed or electronic summary of at least part of the information provided to the provisioning input system.

18. The method of claim 17 wherein the summary includes a transaction reference number.

19. A method of providing a host, comprising:

receiving a request from a customer for a host wherein the host is capable of receiving a digital video program signal;

receiving information from the customer to determine a cable system operator capable of providing a cable programming service to the customer;

determining a compatible conditional access scheme based in part on the cable system operator;

providing information to a provisioning input system, the information comprising a portion of the information received from the customer and a first identifier associated with the host;

receiving a transaction reference number; and

providing the host to the customer.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the information received from the customer includes one of the customer's name, address, zip code, and telephone number.

21. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:  
determining a conditional access module associated with the conditional access scheme;  
providing to the provisioning input system a second identifier associated with the conditional access module; and  
operatively connecting the conditional access module with the host.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the host is integrated in a digital television.

23. The method of claim 19 wherein the first identifier associated with the conditional access module is obtained by scanning an optical bar code, the optical bar code affixed to the conditional access module or a package containing the conditional access module.

24. The method of claim 19 wherein the first identifier associated with the host comprises a host manufacturer identifier and a model identifier associated with the host manufacturer.

25. The method of claim 19 wherein the provisioning network incorporates Internet protocols.
26. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of :  
providing a printed or electronic summary of a purchase of the host to the customer.
27. The method of claim 19 further comprising the step of:  
selecting a cable programming service to be provisioned for the customer.
28. The method of claim 27 wherein the cable programming service is one from the group of digital cable programs, premium video programming, audio musical programs, high speed data, and telephony.
29. A method of providing a cable set top box, comprising:  
  
receiving an order for a host;  
  
receiving information from the customer to select one of a plurality of cable service providers;  
  
providing the information to a provisioning input system;  
  
determining a conditional access scheme compatible with the selected cable service provider;  
  
enabling the conditional access scheme in the host; and

delivering the set top box to the customer.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein receiving an order is transmitted using one from the group of telephone service, postal service, and Internet.

31. The method of claim 29 further comprising:  
receiving payment for the set top box.

32. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of enabling the conditional access scheme in the host further comprises enabling the conditional access scheme in the host by operatively connecting a conditional access module to the host.

33. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of enabling a conditional access scheme in the host further comprises enabling software in the host implementing the conditional access scheme by downloading software to the host.

34. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of enabling a conditional access scheme in the host further comprises enabling conditional access software resident in the host for execution.

35. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of delivering the set top box to the customer comprises delivering the set top box to the customer using a common carrier.

36. The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of:  
providing first identification data associated with the host to the provisioning input system.
37. The method of claim 29 further comprising the step of:  
indicating at least one cable service to the provisioning input system to provision the at least one cable service for the customer.
38. The method of claim 37 further comprising the step of:  
providing the customer with a transaction reference number.
39. The method of claim 37 where the cable service comprises one from the group of telephony, Internet, and premium movie services.
40. The method of claim 29 wherein the step of advertising a host to a customer advertises the host for sale on a web site accessible over the Internet.
41. A method of providing a host, comprising:  
  
receiving information from a customer to identify one of a plurality of cable system operators;  
  
enabling a conditional access scheme from one of a plurality of conditional access schemes based in part on the one of a plurality of cable system operators;

providing first identification data pertaining to the conditional access scheme to a provisioning input system;

providing second identification data pertaining to the host to the provisioning input system; and

transmitting the first identification data and second identification data from the provisioning input system to the one of the plurality of cable system operators.

42. The method of claim 41 wherein the step of enabling a conditional access scheme further comprises installing a conditional access module in the host.

43. The method of claim 41 wherein enabling a conditional access scheme comprises configuring the host to enable executing software implementing the conditional access scheme.

44. The method of claim 41 wherein the information received from the customer includes at least one from the group of name, address, zip code, and telephone number.

45. The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of:

operatively connecting a conditional access module with the host.

46. The method of claim 41 wherein the host is integrated with a consumer electronics device capable of generating video signals.

47. The method of claim 46 wherein the consumer electronics device is one of a television, a personal video recorder, a monitor, a video game, a computer, a video recorder, a video projection device, home theater system, or a media gateway system.

48. The method of claim 41 wherein the first identifier associated with the conditional access scheme is obtained by scanning an optical bar code affixed to a conditional access module or to a package containing the conditional access module.

49. The method of claim 41 wherein the second identifier pertaining to the host comprises a host manufacturer identifier and a model identifier associated with the host manufacturer.

50. The method of claim 41 wherein the cable system provisioning input system accesses an Internet Service Provisioning Gateway.

51. The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of:  
displaying the host for sale in a retail store;  
receiving payment from a customer for the host; and  
providing to the customer a printed or electronic confirmation of a sale of the host to the customer.

52. The method of claim 51 wherein the printed confirmation further indicates a transaction reference number.

53. The method of claim 41 further comprising the step of:  
selecting a service to be provided to the customer by a one of the plurality of cable system operators.
54. The method of claim 53 wherein the service comprises one from the group of telephony, high speed Internet access, video game, and cable premium movie service.
55. The method of claim 41 wherein the retail store is located within the same serving area of the cable system operator.
56. The system of claim 41 wherein the provisioning input system connected to the service provisioning network is capable of displaying host feature information.
57. A system for providing a host, comprising:  
a provisioning input system for receiving customer location data pertaining to a location at which a cable programming service is provided, service related data pertaining to the cable programming service, and identification data pertaining to a host, the provisioning input system operatively connected to a communication network capable of transmitting the service related data, the customer location data, and the identification data, wherein the cable programming service is provided by a cable network system; and  
a provisioning server, operatively connected to the communication network, capable of receiving and processing the service related data, the customer location data, and the

identification data, the server provisioning the service in the cable network system, the provisioning server associating the identification data with the service related data.

58. The system of claim 57 wherein the customer location data received by the provisioning input system comprises at least one of customer telephone number, customer address, or customer zip code.

59. The system of claim 57 wherein the provisioning server accesses a geographical information system mapping the customer location data to the cable network system capable of providing the cable programming service at the location at which the cable programming service is provided.

60. The system of claim 57 wherein the service related data includes a digital video programming service provided over the cable network.

61. The system of claim 57 wherein the provisioning input system contains a point-of-sale application.

62. The system of claim 61 wherein the provisioning input system includes is a personal computer.

63. The system of claim 57 wherein the identification data associated with the host comprises a host manufacturer identifier and a model identifier associated with the host manufacturer.

64. The system of claim 57 wherein the host is integrated into a digital television.
65. The system of claim 57 wherein the provisioning input system accesses a serviceability database comprising a list of video programming services provided by the cable network operator.
66. A system for providing a host comprising:  
an provisioning input system capable of receiving customer location data, either basic cable service data or enhanced cable service data pertaining to a cable video programming service, and a first identification data associated with the host device, the provisioning input system operatively connected to a network capable of transmitting to a provider of the digital video programming service the customer location data, the identification data, and either the basic cable service data or the enhanced service data pertaining to a video programming service;  
and  
a terminal capable of receiving a second identification data associated with the host device and the customer location data.
67. The system of claim 66 wherein the first identification data comprises a number representing an address associated with the host for conveying configuration signals from the provider of the digital video programming service to the host.

68. The system of claim 66 wherein the first identification data is equal to the second identification data.
69. The system of claim 66 wherein the first identification data associated with the host device comprises a host manufacturer identifier and a model identifier associated with the host manufacturer.
70. The system of claim 66 wherein the provisioning input system is capable of displaying data pertaining to basic cable services, premium cable services , or enhanced services offered by the provider of the digital video programming service.
71. The system of claim 66 wherein the terminal is capable of performing a points-of-sale transaction involving the host.
72. A method for provisioning a service comprising
- receiving customer identification information from a customer to select one of a plurality of cable system operators, the one of a plurality of cable system operators providing at least one cable service to the customer;
  - receiving a service selection wherein the service selection corresponds to a service offered by the selected cable system operator;
  - providing the customer identification information and the service selection to a provisioning input system;

communicating the customer identification information and the service selection information from the provisioning input system to the selected cable system operator;  
receiving a transaction reference number; and  
providing a printed or electronic summary of a sales transaction to the customer.

73. The method of claim 72 wherein the service selection is of a service associated with one from the group of premium cable services, high speed data services, telephony service, personal video recoding service, and musical audio service.

74. The method of claim 72 wherein the provisioning input system communicates the customer identification information and service selection information to an enhanced services system.

75. The method of claim 72 further comprising the steps of:  
determining a type of host used by the customer;  
determining a feature capability list of the type of host; and  
determining that the selected service is compatible with the feature capability list.

76. The method of claim 72 further comprising the step of:  
generating a request to reinitialize the a host, wherein the host is associated with the customer and the selected service.